



NOAA's National Weather Service

Raleigh, NC Forecast Office

Online at <http://weather.gov/Raleigh>



SKYWARN Recognition Day 2012: A Success!

by Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Central Carolina Skywarn Emergency Coordinator



Photo above: WX4NC Team Front Row (L to R): Central Carolina SKYWARN (CCS) AEC Bob Woodson WX4MMM, Cassie Mentha W2YBN, Pamela Lewis KK4JCZ, Randy Stark WN4RSS, CCS EC Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Raleigh NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Nick Petro WX3H. Back Row (L to R): Chris Benson KJ4LKE, Ken Stark W4KJS, Phillip Jones KG4IVD, CCS AEC Scott Lewis KJ4BPV, Michaela Woodward, NC ARRL Public Information Coordinator Woody Woodward K3VSA (not pictured Darin Figurskey KC2IPY, Alan Pltego AB4OZ, and Cliff Broughton W4FT)

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) took place Saturday, December 1, 2012, from 0000-2400 UTC. Created in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League, the event celebrated the contributions that SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service to help keep their communities safe. During the event, SKYWARN operators contacted other NWS offices and spotters across the nation. Radio operators exchanged names, call signs, locations, signal reports, and a 1 or 2-word weather report. Over 100 NWS offices across the country participated in this annual event.

Central Carolina SKYWARN (CCS) enthusiastically teamed up with the Raleigh National Weather Service for the 14th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day, operating under the call sign WX4NC.

On the air from 7-8:30pm on Friday and 9am-5pm on Saturday at the NWS office on Centennial Campus in Raleigh, the WX4NC team consisted of NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Nick Petro WX3H, NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figurskey KC2IPY, CCS Emergency Coordinator Virginia Enzor NC4VA, CCS Assistant Emergency Coordinator Bob Woodson WX4MMM, CCS Assistant Emergency Coordinator Scott Lewis KJ4BPV, Pam Lewis KK4JCZ, Chris Benson KJ4LKE, Ken Stark W4KJS, Randy Stark WN4RSS, Phillip Jones KG4IVD, Cassie Mentha W2YBN, NC ARRL Public Information Coordinator Woody Woodward K3VSA, and Michaela Woodward (not a ham...yet!).

We divided up tasks to maximize efficiency. Virginia Enzor NC4VA coordinated overall SRD activities and served as QSL manager for the event. Scott Lewis supervised the temporary antenna setup with assistance from Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ and Cliff Broughton W4FT on Friday night and Nick Petro WX3H on Saturday morning. Bob Woodson WX4MMM oversaw the IRLP station while Ken Stark W4KJS and brother Randy Stark WN4RSS covered the 2 meter/440 station. Nick Petro WX3H set up an Echolink station just in time for SRD and manned it.

For VHF/UHF, we used two permanently installed dual band Kenwood TMD7 radios with Diamond dual band vertical antennas mounted on the roof of the building housing the National Weather Service.

There were 3 HF radios. First was the NWS radio – a Kenwood TS 570S used with a permanently installed moxon antenna. Scott Lewis KJ4BPJ brought his Kenwood TS 120 and used it with a 20-meter dipole, while Virginia Enzor NC4VA set up her IC-7000 with a 40-meter dipole and an MFJ 993 automatic tuner. For logging, we used both paper and user-friendly N3FJP logging software.

Here's a breakdown of our contacts:

HF (15, 20 & 40 meters)	155 contacts
VHF	28 contacts
UHF	28 contacts
IRLP	35 contacts
Echolink	14 contacts
Total	260 contacts

Great propagation allowed us to set a new record high for WX4NC by making contact with 57 NWS offices, earning us the F3 Tornado certificate and eclipsing our old record of 41 NWS offices. We also contacted 45 out of 50 states. To see the scores of all participating offices, please visit <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/>; updates are added weekly as scores are submitted.

Our farthest contacts were Hanwell, New Brunswick, Canada, where it was clear and a numbing 16 degrees, and San Juan, Puerto Rico, where it was raining and a mild 77.7 degrees. What a contrast!

While taking a break from the airwaves, we were treated to a delicious lunch provided by the NWS and presented with handsome SRD 2012 certificates of appreciation. It was a day of firsts in several ways. This was the highest number of contacts with NWS offices that we have ever made, earning us our best-ever certificate. This was the first time we utilized a WX4NC Echolink station which definitely added points to our score. And lastly, newly licensed Pam Lewis KK4JCZ made her first HF contact!

Next year, we plan to do antenna setup earlier in the week to allow more time for operating and perhaps add a digital mode as well. We will also switch to all software logging. Our goal for 2013 will be the highest certification: Category 5 Hurricane! We wish to thank to all spotters who made contacts with us, and we hope to get you in the log again next year on SRD. And most importantly, thanks for your service and reports to SKYWARN and the NWS throughout the year. – Virginia Enzor

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Raleigh would like to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of its SKYWARN volunteers and amateur radio friends. Central Carolina SKYWARN, as well as the members of Triad SKYWARN, are integral parts of the SKYWARN community and the NWS's life-saving mission. Part of the severe weather warning success of the NWS Raleigh office, year after year meeting severe weather warning accuracy, false alarm and lead time goals of the Government Performance and Results Act, can be attributed to the tireless efforts of the amateur radio operators of Central Carolina SKYWARN and Triad SKYWARN. –Nick Petro

Please visit the following websites for more information:

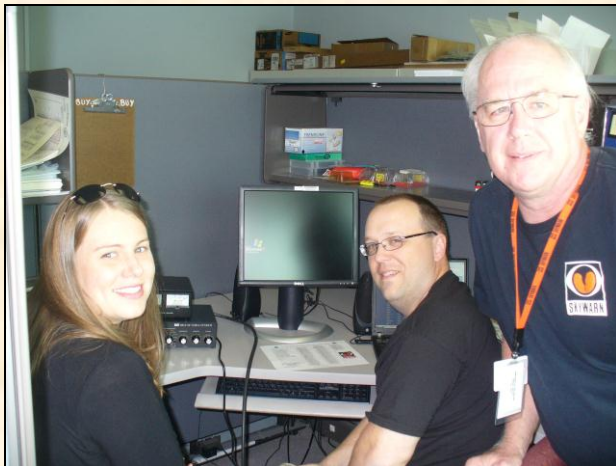
- NWS Raleigh SKYWARN information: <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/rah/skywarn>
- SKYWARN Recognition Day: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>
- Central Carolina SKYWARN: <http://ccskywarn.net>
- Triad SKYWARN: <http://triadskywarn.blogspot.com>



Antenna crew (L) Cliff Broughton W4FT and (R) Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ assist from the roof of the NWS office with additional antenna installation on Friday, Nov. 30.



HF team of (L) Pamela Lewis KK4JCZ and (R) Virginia Enzor NC4VA scored numerous contacts on 40,20 and 15 meters. Pam made her first HF contact!



(L) Cassie Mentha W2YBN, Chris Benson KJ4LKE and Scott Lewis KJ4BPJ "searched and pounced" on NWS offices across the county.



Nick Petro WX3H (R) presented certificates of appreciation/participation to all SRD participants; pictured with Nick are (L to R) Bob Woodson WX4MMM, Scott Lewis KJ4BPV and Virginia Enzor NC4VA



(R) NC ARRL Public Information Coordinator Woody Woodward K3VSA makes a contact while Pamela Lewis KK4JCZ logs and Michaela Woodward observes.



Raleigh NWS Meteorologist-in-Charge Darin Figskey KC2IPY searches for a clear frequency while Warning Coordination Meteorologist Nick Petro WX3H prepares to log.



Michaela Woodward updates weather conditions for radio operators.



VHF team (Front) Ken Stark W4KJS and brother Randy Stark WN4RSS and (Back) IRLP Coordinator Bob Woodson WX4MMM were busy throughout the day.